



## Diro, Haiti

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After their hand pump fell into disrepair, the residents of Haiti's Diro community wrestled with a serious water crisis. Joseph Rodney, a 27-year-old resident, shared his community's story: "Our previous hand pump broke due to poor maintenance. Unfortunately, we lacked the resources to repair it. Over time, the pipes became rusted and contaminated the water. The situation was really bad. My daughter drank water from this well, and she got sick. When I went to the hospital with her, the doctor said she had typhoid. Medical costs were very high."

With no alternative water source, residents were caught in a cycle of illness and financial instability fueled by unsafe water. As household income dwindled, morale declined, and disease continued to spread. It became increasingly difficult for residents to engage in productive activities, such as attending work or carrying out household chores. Children frequently missed school or were unable to focus during class due to being sick and dehydrated, negatively impacting their academic performance and placing barriers to their success.

Amid this crisis, local leaders held out hope for a sustainable solution. Upon hearing about Living Water International's work in the area, they immediately reached out for help. Living Water Haiti responded by rehabilitating this well, installing new PVC piping and a new hand pump in their community. To ensure the well's sustainability, residents elected a local water committee of their peers which will remain in contact with Living Water staff and collect small, voluntary water use fees for any future repairs.

Joseph, with a smile on his face, concluded: "Everything will change now. With this new hand pump, safe water access has been restored. We no longer must drink contaminated water and fear disease or costly hospital bills."



Joseph [left] shares his community's story of living through the water crisis with a Living Water staff member.



Peer-elected and trained by Living Water staff, these residents form the water committee, which is tasked with ensuring well's sustainability.